

AMONG THE STARS



with **LEE IVORY**

One becomes hardened when one spends a lifetime in nightclubs listening to the mediocre offerings of would-be entertainers. Even some of the "name" entertainers often bore patrons with mundane onstage acts.

When an act is good, yet unknown, an itinerant writer does his best to keep them in the news; trying with all his might to let the world know an act is on the way to the top and you should watch for them.

Such a group making a name for themselves both here in the United States and in the surrounding islands is the Rhetta and Tenison Revue. The group is currently working at the Scotch Mist in Chicago and will be the featured act in Nero's Nook of Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas in March.

Though they have never had a hit recording, they have amassed one of the enviable followings in the business. Everywhere they work, the legions of fans grows at a fantastic rate.

The revue consists of singer Rhetta Hughes, pianist Tenison Stephens, drummer Arlington Davis, bassist Dick Van Arsdale, and vocal duet Ben and Barbra "Boots" Farnandis. But the six entertainers seem like a multiplex army of talent once they mount a stage--anybody's stage!

Rhetta, slender and attractive, cannot be simply classified as just a "singer." She has claimed certain tunes as her own and when she sings them, you have no alternative but to listen. "You're Gonna Hear From Me" was obviously written especially for Miss Hughes and just listening to her version of it, you feel in your heart that you will, indeed, hear from her.

EVEN THOUGH the show is built around the talents of Miss Hughes, it is not a one-woman production by any means! Any one of the singers could "make it" as a single and it is this individual artistry that forces the listener to agree that there is one of the most beautiful shows in the nation today.

Tenison Stephens heads up the accompanying trio with style and a good deal of finesse, but it is more than obvious when he sings that he has more accidental soul than a lot of entertainers possess on purpose. The sidemen in the trio are superb musicians who add tremendously to the forward momentum of the show.

Ben Farnandis, along with his sister, Boots, are known as "The Abstractions," and are a complete and wonderful act in themselves.

The six-person combination is so unbeatable that I predict if they are ever seen on a nationally-televized show, they will become what is commonly called in the music industry "overnight sensations." But, they have paid their dues and they are worthy of the highest acclaim we can possibly lay on them.

So, if you hear that they're appearing anywhere within 200 miles of your crib, drop everything and make it. They're worth it.

See you Among the Stars . . .

THE INCOMPARABLE **Duke Ellington!**



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KIM BROTHERS · JADES & J'ADORABLES
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IN THE *Flamingo* LOUNGE

WINNING FANS EVERYWHERE THEY APPEAR



The dynamic combination of Rhetta Hughes, The Tenison Stephens Trio with The Abstractions, currently appearing in Nero's Nook at Caesars Palace, was predicted by Columnist Lee Ivory to become "Overnight sensations," when the group was relatively unknown -- See his story in "Among the Stars", this page.

Jackie Robinson "Couldn't Reach His Son"

STAMFORD, Conn. - (NPI)--Until last week, failure was virtually a stranger to Jackie R. Robinson, Sr., the famous former star of the Brooklyn Dodgers who had made history in crashing baseball's color line in the 1940's.

But after Jackie, Jr., 21, was arrested for possession of heroin and marijuana, Jackie, Sr.,--now a successful executive, banker and advisor to New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller--was forced to admit that he had failed in what he considers his most important reason for being--failing as a father to "reach" his son. "Somehow, we just couldn't reach Jack," said the senior Robinson, after posting \$5,000 bail for his son, a veteran and casualty of the Vietnam war--physically as well as temperamentally.

Jackie Jr. came home from the war last June and confessed to his father that he had been hooked on smoking marijuana cigarettes over there. He also saw a lot of action and sustained shrapnel wounds.

A high school dropout at 17, before going to Vietnam, Jackie Jr. returned home unsettled about a career--telling his famous father he

was not ready for one. Later, he moved out of the family's plush \$125,000 home, telling his family that he had to "stay away from us and figure it all out."

THE IRONY of Robinson's situation is that he has succeeded in properly influencing millions of youngsters with his example of clean living and athletic ability. He also demonstrated to others, particularly Negroes, by rising to prominence in business and politics. He is vice president of Chock Full 'O' Nuts restaurant chain, and advisor on community affairs to Rockefeller. In addition he is chairman of the board of Freedom National Bank in Harlem.

He retired from baseball after more than a decade in the major leagues, and was later named to baseball's Hall of Fame, becoming one of the select few ex-stars to make the grade.

Jackie Jr. was arrested on a Stamford street. Police said he had heroin hid in a transistor radio, as well as a .22 calibre revolver on his person.

The senior Robinson said he'd stick it out with his son. After the case was continued in circuit court, he took his son home.

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